

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE:

1 A dedicated data packet filtering processor whose
2 only function is to filter data packets based on a list
3 of source IP addresses stored in high-speed memory of
4 the processor. The processor has a specialized
5 operating system which controls the operation of the
6 processor. The processor examines the source IP address
7 of each received data packet to determine if the source
8 IP address matches one of the stored source IP
9 addresses, and if there is a match, either discards or
10 forwards the data packet depending on the processor
11 configuration. The list of source IP addresses are
12 updated by a service provider having a central
13 administrative site. The service provider keeps these
14 lists up to date and periodically updates the source IP
15 addresses stored in the random access memory of the
16 dedicated IP filtering processors.